

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5958

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS MAPUTO 0767

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL CATALOGUES RHODESIAN INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE

1. LOCAL DAILY NOTICIAS OF JUNE 9 IN FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAO MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY (AIM) CATALOGUES RHODESIAN MILITARY INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "CRIMES OF THE RACIST RHODESIANS REACH THE SATURATION POINT," NOTES THE FOLLOWING:

- IN THE LAST 17 MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT 120 "AGGRESSIONS" BY RHODESIA AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE. FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1977 THERE WERE PERPETRATED 78 "ARMED PROVOCATIONS," SOME OF WHICH LAST SEVERAL DAYS. IN THIS SAME PERIOD AND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THESE CRIMINAL ATTACKS, 56 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 104 WOUNDED.

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- IN THE PAST YEAR, THE DEATH TOLL OF THE NYAZONIA ATTACK HAS RISEN TO 913 WITH OVER 200 WOUNDED. FORTY-NINE SOLDIERS OF THE POPULAR FORCES FOR THE LIBERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE (FPLM) LOST THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT IN THE PAST YEAR.

- THE RHODESIANS HAVE SHOWN THEY PREFER TO ATTACK UNARMED CIVIL-

IANSL RATHER THAN THE FPLM. IN RECENT AGGRESSIONS THEY HAVE VIRTUALLY COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE LOCALITIES OF MAPAI (GAZA PROVINCE), MAVONDE (MANICA PROVINCE), AND CHOCO (TETE PROVINCE) AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGED THE TOWN OF CHICUALACUALA (GAZA PROVINCE) AND CHITANGA (GAZA PROVINCE). ALSO DESTROYED BY THE RHODESIANS IN THE PAST YEAR WERE: THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER PUNGOE, 24 CIVILIAN VEHICLES, 4 LOCOMOTIVES, 5 WATER PUMPS, 3 BOATS AND 8 LAUNCHES, 3 KILOMETRES OF RAIL LINE, THE TROPOSPHERIC SCATTER COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT CHICUALACUALA, AND INSTALLATIONS OF THE COMPANY OF TRANSPORT IN MAPAI.

- THESE SHOCKING NUMBERS ATTEST TO THE ESCALATION OF AGGRESSIVENESS OF THE ILLEGAL REGIME, WHICH HAS REACHED A SATURATION POINT.

- THE ENEMY AVOIDS DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH FPLM. ITS OPERATIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE ARE AFTERWARDS REPRESENTED AS PUNITIVE EXPEDITIONS OR RETALIATIONS AGAINST ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. THE RACIST PROPAGANDISTS UTILIZE THESE FALSIFIED RESULTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RAISE MORALE IN THE RANKS OF SMITH'S FORCES. HOWEVER, THIS IS A FALSE HOPE. THE DIFFICULT MILITARY SITUATION AND THE INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS HAVE LED TO HUNDREDS OF RHODESIAN SOLDIERS DESERTING, EVEN MERCENARIES. THE WAR HAS HAD HEAVY EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY; 25 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET IS FOR MILITARY EXPENDITURES. THE SMITH REGIME SPENDS ABOUT 700,000 RANDS PER DAY ON THE WAR. EVEN THE COLONIALISTS ARE DEMORALIZED. ACCORDING TO THE "ZIMBABWE REVIEW" OVER 15,000 COLONISTS HAVE ABANDONED THE COUNTRY IN THE PAST YEAR.

- THE COLLAPSE OF THE SMITH REGIME APPEARS EVIDENT. THE IM-
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PERIALIST POWERS RECOGNIZE THAT THE MADNESS AND IRRESPONSIBILITY OF SMITH MAY COMPROMISE THEIR PROJECTS FOR A "NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT." IN HIS ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION SMITH DREAMS OF BEING ABLE TO TRANSFER HIS INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS BY INVOLVING OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THE LIBERATION WAR IS LIKE A WIND WHICH SMITH CANNOT STOP WITH HIS HANDS. "THE ARMED STRUGGLE WHICH WOUNDED THE BUFFALO WILL FINISH BY KILLING IT IN ITS OWN LAIR." DE PREE

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